resolved only after stay is vacated by the courts. In case of dispossession from the plots allotted to landless persons, State Government have to ensure that their possession is restored.

**Steps to modernise BALCO**

*416. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether production, reserve stock of bauxite and the quality of the final product have considerably reduced as compared to that before disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO);

(b) whether above company had a reserve of about Rs. 300 crores and made a profit of more than Rs. 40 crores when it was privatized;

(c) whether the new management is taking any steps for modernisation of the company;

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(e) whether Government would reconsider the disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The long shut down of the plant due to strike of the employees of BALCO resulting in considerable time taken in restarting and relining of the pots caused enormous loss of production, high operational costs and low purity of metal. According to the BALCO management's estimate, these factors together caused a total loss of over Rs. 200 crore. Information received from the Company indicates that this has not affected the reserve stock of Bauxite which is mined from their Captive Mines or purchased through the State Mining Corporation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Company has invited bids for modernization of the smelter from reputed technology providers for evaluation.

(e) No, Sir.